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## Editorial

1983, and the start of a new year. What will it bring? For myself, I hope it  
brings an answer to the thousands of questions relating to the whole UFO  
phenomena. Probably it won't but one can always live in hope.  
I will take this opportunity to thank all those who submitted articles  
for the Journal, and would point out the deadline for the next issue is  
March 1st, so may I have your material by that date to ensure that it goes  
in. Also I would like to thank Graham and Mark Birdsall for their help in  
typing and printing the journal.  
1982 was not a good year for Ufo sightings worldwide but one or two inter-  
esting things were seen in the Yorkshire area, which brings me back once  
again to the Skipton region, activity there is still going on.  
The year ahead for Y.U.F.O.S. is looking good, our own A.G.M., a trip to  
the Oxford A.G.M., more skywatches, greater member participation at meet-  
ings (still every month) and more events planned for the rest of the year.  
Finally I hope you all find this issue interesting, if not, let me know.

Editor.



## A Personal Viewpoint - Part 2

by  
Graham Townsend

My friend Kevin happened to mention the UFO sighting at the travel agency where he works in Bradford, and by a strange coincidence a friend there told him he had seen a bright ball of yellow light pass over Five Lane Ends, which is half a mile from Idle cricket club, whilst visiting some friends that evening - they too saw the object.

This to me seemed to give a good back up to our story, and it already added fire to my red hot interest. I got to wondering if there had been any previous sightings of anything similar in my area and thus paid a visit to the Bradford Telegraph & Argus. To my absolute delight there was an abundance of UFO newsclippings on view. They tended to add weight to my sighting, with descriptions being very similar indeed to my own, coming from the Bradford & surrounding areas. I then began to sift through the same paper over the ensuing months, carefully noting UFO reports, but not really gauging their importance as I had nothing to compare them to, and of course I was new to this sort of thing.

Going back to my sighting, I contacted Leeds & Bradford airport and eventually spoke with someone at the control tower. He was unaware of anything being seen on radar, but was quite interested in my account. He then asked if I wanted to report it officially, and worried that it could well be in the national interest, I agreed. Over the phone he took down my answers to his questions, some of which seemed to be detailed and impressive. He did not think there would be a follow up, but did mention once hearing of a Frenchman who came over to this country and questioning someone on a sighting.

Fortunately for me, an article appeared in the local press written by Graham Birdsall, more importantly it gave a phone number. I spoke with him on the phone, and naturally he was interested in my sighting, to the extent that I was invited to attend the next YufoS meeting in Leeds. Things moved pretty quickly after that, I became a member, and was then invited to join its committee.

I enjoy very much the friends I have made in Contact/YufoS, the discussions of sightings etc. We still have no answer to UFO sightings, but we have compiled an impressive amount of data so far, but statistically speaking, if you are to draw satisfactory conclusions from data you must have a large sample e.g. 10 - 100 sightings is regarded as a small number, whilst 100 - 1,000 is a better sample. Several thousand is a huge sample. Remembering these sightings will probably be classified into groups of similar sightings such as shape, colour location etc, then this again reduces the numbers. It will be realised that a lot of ground work is necessary to gather in as many sightings as possible to help such analysis e.g. 10 out of 100 sightings of cigar shaped objects is chicken feed if it were to be 1,000 out of 10,000! The more sightings you have, the more accurate you will be statistically.

At the moment there are many sightings in the Skipton & surrounding area, where Tony Dodds is in the thick of it so to speak. Perhaps we could help him with background field work on fault or magnetic related work (dowsing etc).

For a while now, I have wanted to describe my sighting in detail and try and give some background of myself, plus my opinions of Ufology. I trust that this has been of interest to people interested in the subject, and perhaps given some guidelines to follow if one does see a UFO.

It appears that Ufology leads into many varied areas, and perhaps is linked with the general philosophies of life itself. But the question asked so many times crops up again, just what is a UFO?

The term UFO is somewhat misleading. My object didn't fly, had no wing structure, what then was keeping it from falling to the ground? I have long thought what would be the next stage from 'normal' flight, and I think on the lines of an anti-magnetic or anti-gravity concept of travel between the stars and planets using their natural gravitational fields to act as a medium in steering between them. This could account for the very strange and erratic movements made by the object I saw, for air and gravity did not seem to trouble it. I got the opinion that this object could move at will in an instant.

Many descriptions of UFO's in motion describe a 'wobbling' effect, a common feature of magnetism when positive and negative ends of a magnet are facing each other. This could be an unidentified moving sky object, a much better description. If such an object is a craft of somekind, with robotic or life-forms at its controls, I see no reason to suppose automatically they originate from other galaxies and planets, but we are told that there are likely to be millions of such systems where life could evolve, space could be rife with visitors from other planets, and like us be natural explorers. Is it not natural having explored ones planet to then explore the heavens once the means has been found?

No harm has come from such objects as yet, so one can assume they have the same respect for life as do we (no pun intended). Are they content to observe, or are they more involved with matters here on Earth than we could ever imagine?

Another of my thoughts after many years...

Is God man at his ultimate development, and if after millions of years or even eternity, the ultimate intelligence is reached, then perhaps this has an influence in the less intelligent life forms - who knows?

I feel we have to be VERY patient, try to back up such speculations with as much relevant data as possible, but in the meantime I shall continue to work on the data we have accumulated thus far and see what can be analyzed from it.

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Graham Birdsall writes; It is very encouraging to read an article like that of Graham Townsends for one very good reason, it comes from the heart. His simple approach of writing, his honesty, his enthusiasm shines through like a beacon, and I commend him for it. I am quite sure that many of our members have similar stories to tell, and no matter how strange or alarming they may seem to you, this Society is only too willing to give you the opportunity in airing your views, subject to the discretion of the editor, Nick Morris, who will be pleased to receive your accounts.



"The UFO challenge - a harsh look at the facts"

by

Graham Birdsall

There can be no doubt that UFO research has bottomed out over the last few years, despite the flap of 1977, no real progress has been made in determining the truth about what UFO's are, where they come from, and why they are here. No dramatic case has occurred, apart from the New Zealand sighting, which has caused eyebrows to be raised in the halls of power at Westminster, Moscow, Washington or has it?

No real evidence has been discovered that might dissuade commentators from treating UFO buffs like infant morons, who happily continue to dream about visitors from outer space, who continue to see objects in the sky, who continue to experience close encounters, yet fail to provide any real hard evidence. It will shortly be almost four decades since Kenneth Arnold saw his "flying saucers" and since then thousands of reports of UFO's have poured into the files of UFO organisations around the globe. Think of it, thousands upon thousands of reports, steadily giving us an idea of what the enigma could be, yet we have no answers, no proof, no UFO.

The security services, particularly in the United States have covered up many sightings, but not all, otherwise we would not be in business. If it were not for the blatant secrecy surrounding UFO's in Government circles, many ufologists would have packed up their interest long ago.

Of course, some ufologists have been reported to have learned the UFO secret long ago, only to drop out of public life, or worse, finish up on a morgue table, cold as space itself. Did they learn too much, too soon, or were they naive enough to think that the ordinary public would readily accept their discovery? The time for truth may be further from our grasp than ever, but are we ever to learn the truth?

There is a growing need for organisations like ours to be more aggressive in its approach, to recruit people in the right places at the right time, and by that I mean pilots, air traffic controllers, and security personnel.

Too radical? Perhaps, but journalists throughout the world have their inside men, people who they can rely on to provide them with items of news that normally would be kept secret for weeks, if not months, what then is the difference between reporting items for the press, and for reporting UFO cases to us? None, so long as national security is not involved, and no breach of the official secrets act is thrown our way.

There just has to be someone, somewhere, who can provide us with the information we require, someone who is eager to divulge what he or she knows, but for reasons only known to them, cannot. By careful means, it may be possible to form a tentative relationship with such a person, gain their confidence, let them know we would protect their identity, and slowly extract what information they have. Too radical? or just the first shots in a continuing battle against officialdom that has finally come to a head. We either sit back, and continue to get nowhere, or act now, the choice is ours and ours alone. Do we attempt to seek an answer by methods that have proved useless, or rigorously adopt methods never tried before, that could reveal information in years, rather than decades?

Reports on the two skywatches held on May 30th & August 28th 1982.

Number 1 Sunday 30-5-82 II-00pm to Monday 30-5-82 3-45am

Street Head Moor near Skipton.

II-08..2 small white lights, high altitude, moving south, low plane noise.

II-10.. " " " " medium alt, moving north, probable plane.

II-35..satellite moving south to north.

II-38.. " " west to east.

II-50..white, red, green lights, south to north, low plane noise.

II-51..satellite north to south.

I2-21.. " south to north.

I2-21.. " west to east.

I2-45.. " " " "

I2-46..red, green white lights, north to south, low jet noise.

I-30..satellite moving north to south.

I-32.. " " " "

I-40.. " " " "

2-00.. " " west to east.

2-05.. " " north to south.

2-08..2 white strobe lights, low noise.

2-10..bright orange flash (meteorite).

2-19..2 small, white lights east to west, probable plane.

2-22..satellite south to north.

2-45..moon set.

3-08..daylight, 1st cuckoo of spring heard. (Was this a comment).

Number 2 same location Saturday August 28th II-00pm

II-20..red, green white lights, north to south, plane noise.

II-22..satellite south to north.

II-30.. " " " "

II-40.. " north to south.

II-50.. " south to north.

II-52.. " south east to north west.

II-55..meteorite north.

II-56..satellite south to north.

I2-25..meteorite north east.

I2-40.. " west.

I2-42.. " south.

I2-55.. " north west.

I2-56.. " east to west.

I-02..red, green lights, low alt, jet, south/south west.

I-03..meteorite north.

I-10.. " " "

I-11.. " " east.

I-12.. " " "

I-15..red, green, white lights, low sound of jet, south east to northwest.

I-20..meteorite north.

I-21.. " " "

I-22..2 white lights descending together, covered by cloud, unidentified.

I-26..meteorite south.

I-30..red green white lights, low sound of jet, north to south.

I-40..meteorite north east to south west.

I-55..red, green, white strobe lights, 2 planes, low sound, north /south/e

2-00..moon set, meteorites north east.

2-15..2 meteorites to the north.

2-16..red, green white lights, low jet sound, north to south.

2-25.. " " " " " " " " " "

2-26..meteorite north.

2-30.. " " s (2) north east.

2-31.. " south west.

2-50.. " north.

3-00..red green white lights, jet, south to north.

cont. over page.

Skywatch report continued:-

3-30..meteorite to the north.

4-15..satellite north west to south east.

4-20..dull orange lights on south horizon,moved behind hills?  
unidentified,probable car headlights.

4-30..dawn,Venus in the east,change of colour-orange,blue,green.

Finish of skywatch.A most interestig experience,thanks to all who made it possible.

Graham Townsend.

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Book review for January  
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I would like to bring to your notice,a new book on U.F.O.S.,entitled "The Worlds Greatest U.F.O. Mysteries",published by Octopus Books Ltd, and a brand new book,with a first publication date of 1983,and modestly priced at £1.99.

If the inclusion on page 51,of a statement by our own esteemed co-ordinator,Graham Birdsall,is any gurantee of success,then this book should sell like hot cakes.

However,to reach out and produce a serious review,one must take a look at the contents,and immediately one finds that the authors,Nigel Blundell and Roger Boar have spread the net far and wide,and have come up with some very interesting sightings,extensively detailed with some very "interesting" conjectures.

Page 50 is particularly interesting to our members dealing as it does with a case with which our members have been much concerned with, namely The Adamski Case and the coalyard in Todmorden.

This is a book of extreme interest,and I like it because after producing a great number of interesting sightings,the final chapter goes on to deal completely with the Who-Why-and Where,with statements from some very eminent,intelligent and deep thinking persons.

Yes,I would recormend this book as an addition to any enthusiasts library and,if and when you read this book,your own comments would be most enlightening.

Perry Green.  
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The Worlds Greatest U.F.O. Mysteries--Octopus Books--Price £1.99.

BY

Nigel Blundell and Roger Boar.  
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Letters to the editor.

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#### YUFOS LIBRARY

As you will have read in last months newsletter, Pat and I are now looking after the society's library. We intend to try and make a concise list of all our books, and a special list of books, lent to the library by members. Where possible, we will be backing the hard backed books to protect them. We will be indexing the books, so that in time there will be a good reading library as well as a reference section.

We are in touch with a few second hand book shops, and they will let us know if any books come in that are of interest to the society. If any member sees a book that may be interesting, please make a note of the author title and publisher, so we can add these to the library. If anyone has a book that is not already in the library we would be happy to see it, and we can assure you that they will be well looked after.

Pat and I would like to thank all members for lending books, and we will be sat at the library desk at future meetings, so do not be afraid to come and see what the YUFOS library has to offer.

Happy reading...Frank Gibson.

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#### U.F.O.S. FACT OR FICTION

I read with great interest, the comments in the Journal, with regards to critics and sceptics and the need for objectivity when formulating reports about u.f.o. sightings. There is of course a paramount need for reports to be of the highest quality if they are to stand up to public scrutiny and the honesty of the person giving the information, and of course the investigation must be without question to make any report stand up to the inevitable onslaught of critics etc.

The usual critic has never seen a u.f.o., and is never likely to see one, because they never put themselves out to do so. They usually work from a nice warm office where for some obscure reason they are aware of all things. Perhaps if we could persuade a u.f.o. to enter their office, they might change their minds.

The big problem with critics and sceptics is their absolute need to argue and pull to pieces any subject which is put in front of them. Their attitude to the subject of u.f.o.s., is that they do not believe they exist and consequently will go to great lengths to destroy the testimony of reliable witnesses.

There is only one way to see a ufo, and that is to get out where are known to circulate and to sit and wait until one appears. This can take a great deal of time and patience, but most people can't spare the time, particularly people with families and other responsibilities. But if you can spare the the time and are interested enough, then go and look. If you see one you will never forget it and it will have been worthwhile.

To quote a passage from Donald P. Story, the editor of The Encyclopedia Of U.F.O.S.,:-If we are to accept data in some cases where no conventional explanation seems possible, If we are willing to alter the data so as to fit into a conventional framework as some people are willing to do then we can of course explain even these cases.

Caution should be exercised here, first such a procedure permits one to explain away anything and everything that is nettlesome and problematical, this can result in known scientific effects being overlooked and not being recognised for what they are. If the intention of such investigators is to explain away all reports regardless, there is little purpose in undertaking such investigations in the first place.

T. Dodd.

Any replies from readers ?

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Letters cont.

Dear Editor,

Since the first issue of the Y.U.F.O.S. Journal appeared, many changes have occurred which undoubtedly have made the Journal a more compact and enjoyable magazine to read. However, being in the position to comment on the vast amount of time the issue takes to produce, there are certain points that I would like to mention. Firstly, when I proposed that we as an official branch of Contact U.K. should have our own Journal, I also hoped that the magazine would only be available through subscriptions. This of course was turned down, and although subscriptions are available, most people who purchase the Journal, do so at the meetings. The sale of the Journal has not been good, an average figure has been reached on occasions, of 15 to 20 but most people would say this figure is not too good. I had hoped all members would have subscribed, but only seven did. However on content, no-one can argue with the general improvement. But the limited sales of the Journal lead me to ask:—would there be more incentive for members and investigators to devote more time on quality articles if they knew the Journal would be read by a much larger number.

Volume I no. 5, was in my opinion, the best Journal to date, and it should be noted that only nine Journals were sold at our November meeting, this added to the seven subscriptions, makes a very poor sale of sixteen. It all adds up to a great deal of time and effort being wasted by such limited sales. How nice it would be that after so much work and time, one knew the Journal would be reaching all our members, which is thirty-three. It can be said that opportunities to produce a Journal of far greater quality than a year ago are obvious. Oxford have given the use of the printing machine which gives far superior results than the old photo copy issues.

The Journal is OUR OWN publication, but until a guaranteed number of issues is forthcoming, then the scope of widening its distribution is limited. If we had a set number of Journals entering house holds around Yorkshire, we could tempt small businesses to advertise in it. But the answer lies with the membership, if our own people help and subscribe to the Journal, it would be a step in the right direction. The editor and people who help to produce the Journal need all the support they can get. The ideas are there, and who knows, if used and developed in the right way, the Journal could one day rank high in the respected Journals of the world.

M.I. Birdsall.

Thank you for your comments Ian, they will be noted and some may be implemented in the future .Ed.

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In this and in future editions of the Journal, we shall be featuring some of the cases which have been investigated by Y.U.F.O.S. members & investigators.

the first case involves a railway worker in the Kirkstall area of Leeds and is listed as Case no. 5--Strange Phenomena On Railway Line.

This is Mr. A's original letter to Graham Birdsall:—

16-2-79 Dear sir, You may think me potty, but whether you do or not is up to you. On the 12 of Feb 79, I got a train to Headingley, and on getting off the train I have to walk about one mile to where I get off the track just before I get to the Hark To Rover pub at Leeds 6.

Anyway, as I was walking along the track, there was a bright green glow on the left hand side of me, and when I stood still, it just stayed there I thought to myself at the time, it is in my mind. Anyway I carried on walking and it stayed with me.

..... continued over page.

The train from Harrogate was approaching and I moved towards it onto the other track. It moved above my head as the train was passing me. It lifted me about 5 yards or so and eased me down gently. Then as the train had gone towards Headingley and Leeds, I moved back onto the other track facing F orsforth. Then it disappeared for a time, then as I was approaching my turn off, it was there again, only bigger, and in shape it was like a piece of cheese, like below.

I have not told a soul, not even my wife, she would only say it was in my mind. It might have been but then again, who knows. It was so low I tried to touch it, probably that's why I was lifted off the floor. Well maybe you can work it out, I don't know, I have not been back on the track at Headingley since. Sincerely yours Mr. A.

Regarding the interview for the investigation, Mr. A. remained very nervous and Graham had this to say about it later:-

Mr. A. was pressed for time, and did not seem particularly keen to carry on the interview. My brother Mark, who is noted for his aptitude at gauging people's sincerity on our interviews together, was convinced this fellow had experienced something unheard of in modern ufology. I will keep this matter under wraps until as such time the gentleman in question drops his suspicion of us. He is at the moment a very worried man, and we will do all we can to appease matters.

As yet we have no explanation of this incident as Mr. A. has not been in touch since. The line involved is not electrified, so this would not account for the green glow he saw.

Again and again we come across a person who has experienced something very unusual, but after a thorough investigation we are no nearer to finding an answer, so the thing to do is to keep on digging and searching until a breakthrough is reached.

#### ----- Another sighting near Skipton -----

At the end of December 1982, an Earby man saw, whilst out with his dog, a brilliant white light in the sky. Mr. Brian Gudgeon said that the light came from the direction of Colne, stopped in the sky over Earby and then shot back in the direction it had come. He also said: "I saw this light travelling across the sky. I lined it up with a couple of chimneys to see how fast it was going. It stopped over the second chimney and suddenly shot off in the other direction. I lost it completely for a couple of seconds, and had almost given up the idea when I saw a ball of light shoot towards Colne. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I saw sputniks in the sixties and I know aeroplanes but I have never seen anything like this".

Barnoldswick police say that they are treating the sighting seriously and have carefully logged the report.

West Craven has had several strange sightings in the past, and added to the number of sightings in the general area of Skipton, makes this region very interesting to anyone involved with U.F.O. activity. I believe that Tony Dodd is working on the investigation of this particular case, so his results will be printed in the Journal at a later date.

Why should this area have so much "action"? If any members do have any ideas or theory's then please let me know and together, we shall try to find some reason or answer.

Nick Morris.